

# Quarterly Update of Activities



Michael Patrick George,  
Delta Watermaster  
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DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL



# Overview

- The recent appointment to the State Water Board
- Status of the update of the Water Quality Control Plan
- Challenges and responses to the loss of Delta channel capacity
- Southern Delta Salinity Synthesis Project
- Diversion measurement outreach/feedback and implementation steps



# Recent Appointment to the State Water Resources Control Board

- Steven Moore resigned in November to become the General Manager of the Ross Valley Sanitation District
- Governor Brown appointed Sean Maguire to serve the unexpired portion of the term



# Status of the Update of the Water Quality Control Plan

- December 12 - The Water Board adopted the San Joaquin River Portion of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP)
- The Board welcomed a report of Progress in developing Voluntary Settlement Agreements and left room for incorporating them
- More refined Voluntary Settlement Agreement details are due from the proponents on March 1
- An Administrative Draft of the Sacramento River and Delta portion of the WQCP is in preparation
- The updated WQCP will require development of a Plan of Implementation
- Multiple lawsuits have been filed to challenge the WQCP update



# Loss of Delta Channel Capacity: The Problems

- Certain channels (including parts of Old and Middle Rivers) are becoming choked with sediment and invasive weeds, thus
  - reducing flow
  - inhibiting irrigation
  - interfering with fish migration
  - increasing residence time
  - limiting dissolved oxygen and
  - encouraging formation of harmful algae blooms (HABs)



# Loss of Delta Channel Capacity: Search for a Solution

- An *ad hoc* group of stakeholders has convened at irregular intervals in response to the observed problem in Delta channels, particularly in the southern part of the Delta.

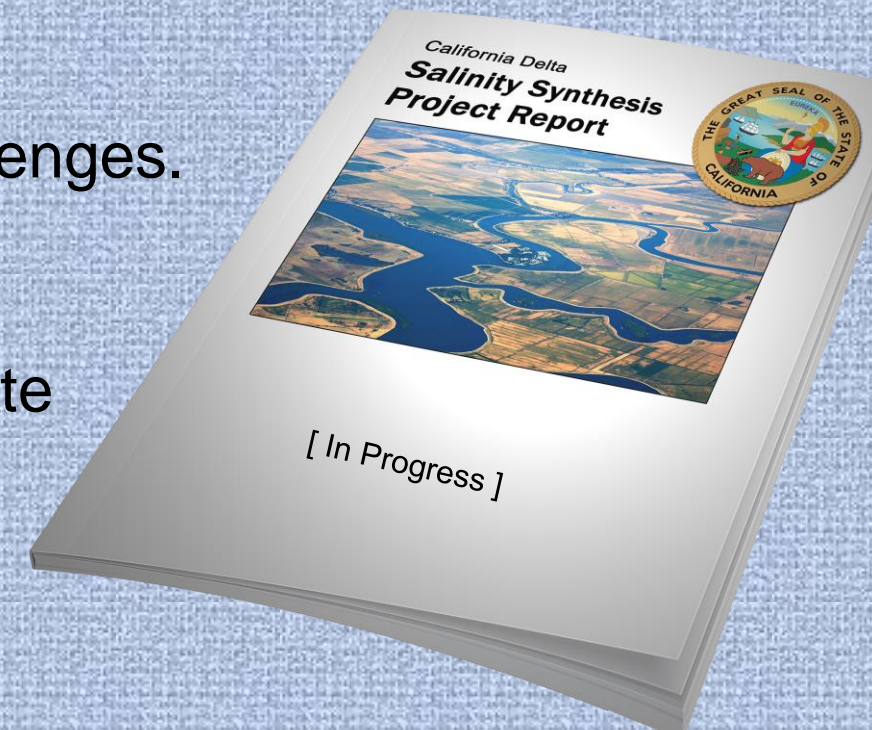
- Office of the Delta Watermaster
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- South Delta Water Agency
- San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Water Resources
- State Water Contractors





# Southern Delta Salinity Synthesis Project

- In lieu of enforcement against recurring exceedances of the salinity objectives in the Delta Water Quality Control Plan
- Salinity Synthesis Project Aim - Develop an objective scientific review and synthesis of studies and reports which illuminate the:
  - origins of,
  - contributions to, and
  - responsibilities for southern Delta salinity challenges.
- DSC's Lead Scientist Role: convene an independent Science Panel to conduct an objective review and write the synthesis report



# Diversion Measurement Outreach Feedback and Implementation Steps



## Two public sessions are planned:

- January 18 - Sacramento; and
- January 25 - Stockton

## The workshops are one part of the Water Board's efforts to:

- ✓ Inform stakeholders about implementation of the diversion measurement regulations
- ✓ Receive stakeholder feedback
- ✓ Describe specific challenges encountered in the Delta
- ✓ Highlight progress achieved by the Delta Measurement Experimentation Consortium
- ✓ Note the emergence of an alternative hypothesis: use remote sensing rather than individual diversion measurements to achieve improved water management





An aerial photograph of a winding river, likely the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. In the foreground, a large herd of bison is grazing on a green field. The river flows through the center, bordered by trees and grassy banks. A paved road curves along the right side of the river. The background shows more green fields and a fence line.

# Questions ♦ Thank You

↑ Michael George  
Delta Watermaster

Email: [michael.george@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:michael.george@waterboards.ca.gov)

Office Phone: (916) 445-5962